Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

May 2018

This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Quebec and its regions.

OVERVIEW

The latest estimates from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey show a slight employment growth in May 2018. The Quebec economy created only 4,700 jobs last month, amounting to a 0.1% increase. This progression is attributable to part-time employment which saw a significant, 5.5% growth (+42,300 jobs), while part-time employment registered a loss of 37,600 jobs (-1.1%). It is women who contributed to this increase in employment, with a surge of 7,500 jobs, at a time when employment for men fell (-2,900). The public sector saw a decrease in employment (-5,700 jobs), while employment for private sector and self-employed workers grew. In comparison, employment remained stable in Ontario and in Canada as a whole.

On a yearly basis, the data for Quebec remains favorable, with a 1.6 gain in employment (+ 65,300 jobs) since May 2017. The growth of full-time employment (+81,000 jobs) easily offset the decrease in part-time employment (-15,600 jobs). Since the number of workers grew faster than the working-age population, the employment rate gained 0.5 percentage point and reached 61.2%. A similar trend was observed over the past year in Ontario and in Canada as a whole, where employment grew by 1.8% and 1.3%, respectively.

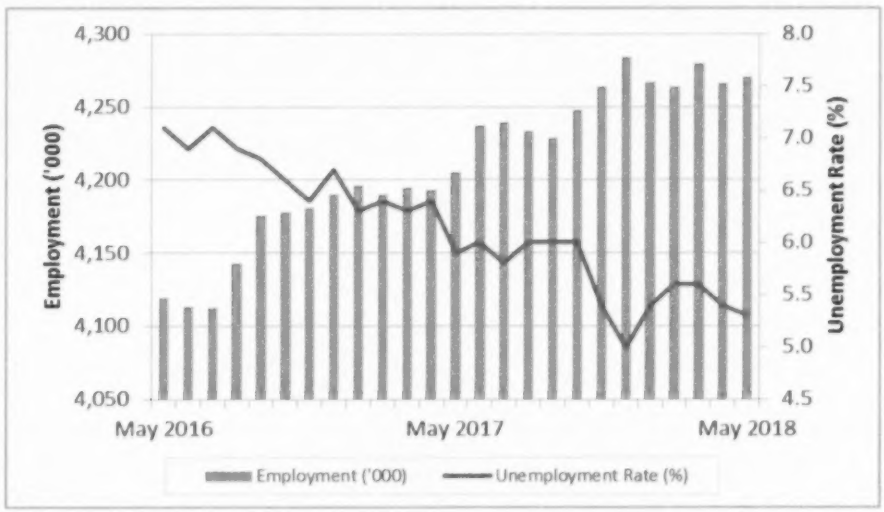
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2018	April 2018	May 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	6,976.5	6,970.9	6,925.5	5.6	0.1	51.0	0.7
Labour Force ('000)	4,510.9	4,508.3	4,471.0	2.6	0.1	39.9	0.9
Employment ('000)	4,270.5	4,265.8	4,205.2	4.7	0.1	65.3	1.6
Full-Time ('000)	3,455.9	3,493.5	3,374.9	-37.6	-1.1	81.0	2.4
Part-Time ('000)	814.7	772.4	830.3	42.3	5.5	-15.6	-1.9
Unemployment ('000)	240.3	242.5	265.8	-2.2	-0.9	-25.5	-9.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	5.4	5.9	-0.1	-	-0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.7	64.7	64.6	0.0	-	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.2	61.2	60.7	0.0	-	0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



The participation rate remained stable in Quebec, at 64.7%, because the labour force increased (+0.1%) at a rate which was comparable to that for the working-age population (+0.1%). On a yearly basis, the labour force (+0.9%) grew at a faster pace than the working-age population (+0.7%), leading to a slight increase of the participation rate (+0.1 percentage point).

In Quebec, the number of unemployed people has decreased by 2,200 since last month, amounting to a 0.9% decline, which allowed the unemployment rate to shed 0.1 percentage point and reach 5.3%. Thus, the unemployment rate remains very low. On a yearly basis, Quebec had 25,500 fewer unemployed people than during the same period last year, which translates into a significant, 9.6% decline during the past year. This decrease in the number of unemployed people, within a labour force that experienced only a slight increase, has led to a 0.6 percentage point decrease in the unemployment rate. The group of workers aged 55 and over benefited the most from the decline of the unemployment rate during the past year.

Except for the group of workers aged 25-54, for which the employment rate stood at 84.2%, all other age groups saw increases in their employment rates. This growth was highest for the 55+ age group (+2.0 percentage points); the employment rate for this group thus reached 33.5%.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2018	April 2018	May 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.3	5.4	5.9	-0.1	-0.6
25 years and over	4.7	4.7	5.4	0.0	-0.7
Men - 25 years and over	5.0	5.2	5.7	-0.2	-0.7
Women - 25 years and over	4.3	4.2	5.0	0.1	-0.7
15 to 24 years	9.7	9.6	9.6	0.1	0.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.0	11.1	10.7	-0.1	0.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	8.3	8.0	8.5	0.3	-0.2

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

On an industrial basis, the service sector posted a gain of 7,500 jobs (+0.2%) in May 2018, as the 12,600 jobs added in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, and the 4,100 jobs added in transportation and warehousing offset the losses in healthcare and social assistance (-13,000), educational services (-4,000), information, culture and recreation (-3,800), business services (-1,900) and in professional, scientific and technical services (-500). On a yearly basis, employment gains in the service sector amounted to 1.9%. Except for professional, scientific and technical services (-0.4%), as well as information, culture and recreation (-5.1%), all other industries in this sector benefited from the growth in employment.

The goods-producing sector, on the other hand, saw a 0.3% employment decline, which represents 2,900 fewer jobs since April 2018. The construction (-2.7%) and manufacturing (-1.3%) industries, as well as forestry, fishing and mining (-2.4%) all saw employment decreases. On a yearly level, the situation is somewhat different. The goods-producing sector posted a modest, 0.3%, employment growth (+2,400 jobs). Over the past year, losses in the goods-producing sector were attributable to construction and utilities.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2018	April 2018	May 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,270.5	4,265.8	4,205.2	4.7	0.1	65.3	1.6
Goods-producing sector	851.2	854.1	848.8	-2.9	-0.3	2.4	0.3
Agriculture	56.3	53.7	54.2	2.6	4.8	2.1	3.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	36.0	38.4	33.8	-2.4	-6.3	2.2	6.5
Utilities	25.4	24.5	26.6	0.9	3.7	-1.2	-4.5
Construction	246.3	249.0	248.5	-2.7	-1.1	-2.2	-0.9
Manufacturing	487.3	488.6	485.6	-1.3	-0.3	1.7	0.4
Services-producing sector	3,419.3	3,411.8	3,356.5	7.5	0.2	62.8	1.9
Trade	669.8	659.0	666.5	10.8	1.6	3.3	0.5
Transportation and warehousing	222.3	218.2	207.8	4.1	1.9	14.5	7.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	242.7	230.1	230.5	12.6	5.5	12.2	5.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	326.0	326.5	327.4	-0.5	-0.2	-1.4	-0.4
Business, building and other support services	189.0	190.9	174.8	-1.9	-1.0	14.2	8.1
Educational services	292.0	296.0	291.9	-4.0	-1.4	0.1	0.0
Health care and social assistance	584.2	597.2	573.9	-13.0	-2.2	10.3	1.8
Information, culture and recreation	177.1	180.9	186.7	-3.8	-2.1	-9.6	-5.1
Accommodation and food services	282.4	280.2	275.0	2.2	0.8	7.4	2.7
Other services	178.9	182.5	173.2	-3.6	-2.0	5.7	3.3
Public administration	254.9	250.4	248.7	4.5	1.8	6.2	2.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0355

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Most economic regions saw an improvement in employment over the past year. The most significant growth was observed in Laval (+10.9%). Conversely, the number of workers fell in five regions, with the Centre-du-Québec region seeing the most significant decline (-3.9%).

The unemployment rate decreased in almost all Quebec regions over the past year. The most significant decreases were seen in Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (-2.2 percentage points) and Capitale-Nationale (-1.5 percentage point).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2018 ('000)	May 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2018 (%)	May 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,241.1	4,161.7	1.9	5.7	6.7	-1.0
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	36.1	36.2	-0.3	14.7	13.8	0.9
Bas-Saint-Laurent	90.0	85.7	5.0	7.1	6.5	0.6
Capitale-Nationale	408.0	398.2	2.5	4.1	5.6	-1.5
Chaudière-Appalaches	218.0	209.1	4.3	3.3	4.5	-1.2
Estrie	159.2	152.8	4.2	4.9	6.3	-1.4
Centre-du-Québec	114.4	119.1	-3.9	5.2	5.9	-0.7
Montérégie	819.7	805.4	1.8	4.1	4.8	-0.7
Montréal	1,039.7	1,017.2	2.2	7.5	8.9	-1.4
Laval	236.0	212.9	10.9	5.2	6.2	-1.0
Lanaudière	255.8	254.6	0.5	6.2	6.1	0.1
Laurentides	291.6	302.3	-3.5	6.1	6.7	-0.6
Outaouais	202.7	200.3	1.2	5.9	6.1	-0.2
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	77.5	73.5	5.4	4.4	5.4	-1.0
Mauricie	115.2	117.0	-1.5	5.7	6.8	-1.1
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	123.9	123.6	0.2	7.6	9.0	-1.4
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	53.0	53.8	-1.5	5.7	7.9	-2.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293

***Note:** In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.*

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***For information on the Labour Force Survey**, please visit the Statistics Canada website at:*
www.statcan.gc.ca

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